

WITH apologies to Marlow, where their Athenian League Division Two promotion bid is taking on a healthy complexion of late, it is again Wycombe Wanderers' Amateur Cup exploits to the fore this week.

While the Blues meet Wokingham in a Senior Cup semi-final tomorrow (Saturday), Tow Law and Skelmersdale will be under close scrutiny from Wanderers as they battle out their delayed third round tie to see who goes through to the last eight and a quarter-final at Loakes Park on February 27.

Both Northern clubs are respected and feared Cup fighters, with traditions developed in the last decade. It must be much of a muchness to Wanderers as to who wins, for neither can be cast aside lightly.

What Wycombe can rejoice at, however, is their luck in being drawn at home yet again

Home draw avoids a Cup pitch problem

— the fourth successive time this season — particularly for this, the last round not played on neutral territory.

Both the pitches at Skelmersdale and Tow Law are notoriously difficult — a considerable disadvantage to a side with the ball playing skills of Wycombe.

Either of the rivals are a different proposition altogether from the Blues last opponents, Oldbury. Tow Law, from Durham, compete alongside such clubs as Crook and Bishop Auckland in the Northern League.

Skelmersdale, still bemoaning that missed penalty in their last Wembley appearance, against Enfield — eventually they lost on a replay — have been figuring in the closing stages of the competition almost every season since then.

At present playing in the strong Cheshire County League, they are hoping to qualify next season for the Northern Premier League in what will be their first year as full professionals.

It is therefore the Skems' final venture into the Amateur Cup — a factor which will boost

their determination to prevent Tow Law pulling off tomorrow the kind of shock North Shields suffered last week. After a goalless first half, Tow Law scored six times.

Should Skems' qualify for the quarter finals, thoughts must turn to Peter Suddaby, who joined Wanderers when studying at Oxford University last season. He had formerly played for Skelmersdale, and now is bordering on Blackpool's first team.

So tomorrow there's one eye on Loakes Park, another on Tow Law and a third —

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metaphorically speaking of course — on Dolphin Stadium, where Hendon, the only other surviving Isthmians, and Slough Town, Wycombe's F.A. Cup stumbling block, replay for a quarter-final visit to Aveley.

SAME AGAIN TICKET-WISE
ARRANGEMENTS, ticket-wise, are much the same for the quarter final as for other rounds.

Prices have been raised for the match to: Ground 25p, O.A.P.'s 5p, Boys 15p, Enclosure 35p, Stands A B and F 40p, and Stands C and E 45p, and tickets can be obtained from the ground at the following times:

Tonight (Friday 7-9 p.m.), Saturday (during the Wokingham match), Sunday (10 a.m. to noon), Tuesday (during the Slough Floodlight League game), Wednesday and Thursday (7-9 p.m.), and Friday, if necessary (7-9 p.m.).

A decision was made not to sell tickets tomorrow morning after all. Season ticket holders have until Tuesday night to claim their seats before they are put on sale generally.

FREE SEATS TREAT AHEAD

WOKING, despite Wycombe's glorious 2-0 win there on February 9, holds some unhappy memories for Wanderers' supporters.

The game was played at a third attempt and ultimately proved all worthwhile. But, following two wasted trips due to a blackout and a snowstorm, this time a breakdown en route caused a coach load of fans to miss the first half.

The silver lining was provided this week, however, via a praiseworthy piece of public relations by the club. "We feel it is unfortunate that the breakdown should occur, especially in view of the other two wasted trips," explained treasurer Roger Lee, announcing that free tickets for Wycombe's next home League game — whenever that is — would be handed out to all those on the ill-fated coach.

Roger told me the club, and especially the players, are very appreciative of the huge support they get both home and away, and "It is a gesture of good-will which we hope will compensate for their disappointment."

He has a list of all those on the coach, and will be issuing the tickets on Saturday and Tuesday evenings, if the supporters involved will contact him.